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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you, on behalf of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the text of the joint communiqué issued at the end of the meeting co-hosted by him and the Secretary-General of the United Nations and attended by the President of Sierra Leone and the President of Liberia, which took place at Abuja on 2 July 1998 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Joint communiqué of the meeting co-hosted by the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations and attended by the President of Sierra Leone and the President of Liberia, issued on 2 July 1998 at Abuja

1. On 1 July 1998, at the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi A. Annan, the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, hosted a meeting between President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone and President Charles Ghankay Taylor of Liberia.

2. The meeting, which was co-chaired by the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed a number of regional and subregional issues, including ways in which security and cooperation between the neighbouring States of Liberia and Sierra Leone could be further improved, which confidence-building measures could be introduced by the two Governments and what role the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations could play in support of these efforts.

3. The Heads of State of Sierra Leone and Liberia, in the presence of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and the Secretary-General, reached agreement on the following points:

(a) They strongly condemned the continued rebel activities in Sierra Leone, as well as the horrendous atrocities that had been committed there;

(b) They were determined to cooperate to promote an end to the fighting in Sierra Leone and to foster peace and security in the subregion;

(c) They reaffirmed the non-aggression protocol of 1986 of the Mano River Union agreement and agreed to seek ways to enhance its effectiveness. Special attention was drawn to the need to control the activities and movements of demobilized former combatants and the leaders expressly reaffirmed their commitment not to permit their territories to be used for actions aimed at destabilizing the other;

(d) That, as a further confidence-building measure, the two leaders would exchange official visits;

(e) That both leaders would welcome and support the deployment of observers from the United Nations and the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States along their borders;

(f) Both leaders called upon their citizens not to be involved in destabilizing activities against the other State and stated that all those caught committing such offences should be arrested and prosecuted under the laws of the arresting State;

(g) Both leaders welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States in facilitating their discussion and expressed their appreciation for this.

4. The three regional leaders called upon the United Nations to increase its presence in Sierra Leone, in support of the efforts being undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States and the Government of Sierra Leone to promote peace and security in the country. The Secretary-General expressed support for the need to increase the United Nations presence in Sierra Leone and noted that the Security Council was presently considering the matter.

5. The participants expressed grave concern over the situation in Guinea-Bissau and noted the ongoing consultations among member States of the Economic Community of West African States on this matter.

6. The participants expressed their special appreciation to the Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, for having hosted the meeting and for the facilities which he had made available.

(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)
Charles G. TAYLOR President of Liberia	Abdulsalam ABUBAKAR Chairman of ECOWAS Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	Ahmed Tejan KABBAH President of Sierra Leone	Kofi A. ANNAN Secretary-General of the United Nations

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